

Spending Bill Will Avoid Government Shutdown

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today supported a spending bill that will prevent the federal government from shutting down and includes funding she requested to adequately fund programs that benefit the Great Lakes and a laser lab at the University of Rochester.

Slaughter who has been a long-time champion of the Great Lakes today applauded the funding for programs that will help clean up the lakes and help combat invasive species, specifically \$323.7 million in two programs for the Great Lakes she requested. And as a long-time friend and supporter of the University of Rochester, Slaughter was pleased to see \$62.5 million allocated to fund a laser lab at the University, one of Monroe County's largest employers.

"While I have serious reservations with how this bill came to the House floor, I'm pleased that today's funding bill will includes investments I requested to adequately fund the cleanup and protection of the Great Lakes," said Slaughter. "They represent 20 percent of the world's freshwater and it is my belief that we must do everything to protect them and hand them down to future generations. I'm also pleased that the University of Rochester's laser lab will receive much-needed funding so they can continue their research and will remain the only facility of its kind to train graduates in inertial fusion."

UofR Laser Lab -- \$62.5 million

The University of Rochester's Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE) is a unique national resource for research and education in science and technology established in 1970 as a center for the investigation of the interaction of intense radiation with matter.

As a long-time friend of the University of Rochester and supporter of one of the region's largest employers, Slaughter wrote to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development in May asking for their full support in a program to benefit the laser lab.

Slaughter told her colleagues that the laser lab is only majority facility of its kind that trains graduates in inertial fusion and that work done here is used not only at the University of Rochester but also at three national weapons laboratories and several other universities.

A copy of her letter is available [here](#).

Great Lakes Programs - \$323.7 million

As Co-Chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, Slaughter was instrumental in the funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative which received \$300 and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission which received \$23.7 million, \$5 million more than President Obama's budget request.

Slaughter is a long-time champion of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) which is a multi-year plan to clean the Great Lakes and combat the threat posed by invasive species. It is the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades. In November, Slaughter led a letter with 24 of her colleagues to the leaders of the House and Senate appropriations committees arguing that we must adequately fund the GLRI as it protects the lakes which, "provide invaluable recreations opportunities and support shipping, fishing, boating and tourism industries that generate 1.5 million jobs and \$62 billion in wages."

A copy of her letter is available [here](#).

Slaughter also joined in the effort to fund the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) by urging leaders of the relevant funding subcommittee to support this program saying that the GLFC, "has promoted the health and well being of the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain for over 50 years...Their work supports significant tourism and recreational industries as well as maintaining healthy waterways in which they can operate. In all, GLFC helps generate \$7 billion in economic activity, supporting 75,000 jobs for the Great Lakes region."

That letter is available [here](#).

On Procedure

As House Rules Committee Ranking Member, Slaughter has serious concerns about the process by which this massive spending measure was brought to the House floor. Following her statement on the House floor where she managed a procedural debate on the measure, Slaughter said,

"Many are breathing a sigh of relief today because the government will not shut down at midnight. But just because we averted a crisis doesn't mean this is a cause for celebration. In fact, it is a demonstration of failure. We passed a massive, 2000-page bill that no Member of the House even pretends to have read. It represents a failure to meet our basic responsibilities to the American people."